

I have contacted the FCC office via email and phone several times over the past few weeks to obtain a copy of the proposed rule (MB Docket No. 02-277) which I've heard about but have not read. The only response I've received is a link to some of the technical studies which are indecipherable to the average citizen. Since most of the technical studies rely on proprietary information which can only be viewed at the FCC office in DC, I didn't find that information very helpful. The link did not connect me to the proposed rule which the FCC will be voting on and upon which I wanted to comment. So I'm going to comment on what I've heard about the proposed rule and about the flawed rulemaking process.

I believe the FCC is about to approve a relaxation of the media ownership rules which will allow a single owner to control more of the market - facilitating a monopolization of our media outlets. I haven't heard any justification for this proposed change. I don't know what's broken today that requires a change by the FCC.

The FCC's rulemaking process is flawed because a concerned citizen is unable to obtain a copy of a proposed rule to review and make an educated and informed comment. It also appears (as an outside observer) that the process must have been captured by the special interests, to the exclusion of the public interest.

If I wanted to live in a country where the media was owned and controlled by a very few, I would move to another country perhaps. In my mind, there's no difference between state-controlled media and a privately-owned media captured by a very few. The public interest loses the diversity of opinions that shape a vibrant democracy. What a very sad day in America that would be were it to happen!

William Burrell